



Activities & Time Frame

Updating the First 5 – Placer Strategic Plan

February - 2006

2006

May – June

Determine needs/assets and changes from the current funded partner network perspective by surveying all funded partners. Tabulate survey results and convene the respondents to review and clarify input.

July – August – September

Convene community conversations to get input related to needs/assets and changes from the general public's perspective.

Research community wide data and integrate with community input.

October

Form a writing team to synthesize all input and develop a draft plan. Circulate the plan for additional public comment.

Hold a working meeting with the Commission to review draft plan.

November - December

Commission holds a public hearing to adopt the new plan. Also, sufficient funds are allocated to implement the plan activities.

2007

January - February

Implement the 2007 – 2010 *Request for Results* application process. Form an application review committee.

March – April

The application review committee reviews applications and develops funding recommendations for the Commission to consider.

May – June

Contract scopes of work are developed and the Commission Chair signs contracts.

July 1, 2007

Funding begins for the first year of the new plan.

Background Information

Updating the First 5 – Placer Strategic Plan

The current First 5 - Placer Strategic Plan covers the period from July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2007. The plan is required by law and among other things; it must include an explanation of the results (outcomes) the Commission would like to achieve, along with a description of how the Commission will invest its funds to achieve these results.

Given the time period covered by the Commission's current plan, and the state requirements for inclusive community planning processes, the decisions on what the Commission will fund after June 30, 2007, and the process for making funding decisions will need to be made well before the Commissions current contracts end, which is June 30, 2007.

To have an updated plan approved by the Commission before June 30, 2007, the Commission will implement the following planning activities during fiscal year 2006-07.

Process for Updating the Strategic Plan

This is an outline of activities that First 5 – Placer will use to engage the community in evaluating what has been achieved by First 5 investments made to date in its Strategic Result Areas.

The activities will also provide information for the Commission to develop sustainable strategies for supporting and funding a network of services for all children prenatal through 5 and their families through 2010.

This will be the third time that the Commission has openly reviewed and updated its strategic plan. In the past the Commission used "Community Conversations," and the "Request for Results" application process to update the plan and develop strategies for making new funding investments.

The processes were successful in that they resulted in an updated plan while at the same time, the processes helped to make connections and develop relationships between organizations that serve 0-5 children and families. This eventually resulted in the emergence of a diverse First 5 Partner Network of results-oriented services.

These same processes (with improvements) will be used again to evaluate the Commission's current plan and develop a new plan to invest First 5 funds in Placer County through 2010. Significant dates and activities for the process are as follows:

2006 Activities

May – June

Survey all funded partners and then convene them to review input to the survey questions:

- Which First 5 Placer strategic result area do you work most in?
- Who do you serve?
- For what purpose are they being served?
- What services do you provide to prenatal through 5 and at what cost?
- What other First 5 programs do you work with? How?
- What outcomes are you achieving? How do you know that?
- Based on your experience, what is missing for our prenatal through 5 population?
- How are you contributing to the overall First 5 Placer vision and mission?

July - August – September

Community conversations will be convened throughout the county. The conversations are keyed off the “Food for Thought” video, which provides information about the importance of the early years of a child’s life and the incredible amount of brain development that takes place during those years. Additionally, information will be available about the current First 5 Partner Network services and the outcomes that have been achieved by the network.

The purpose of the facilitated community conversations would be to inform and/or reconnect the community with the “brain development message”; provide information about First 5 Partner activities; and, to engage the community in brainstorming on a few open-ended planning questions such as:

- What is different in your community for children prenatal through 5 and their families that you attribute to services funded by First 5 - Placer?
- What outcomes (Conditions and/or behaviors) are we seeing that need to be sustained by First 5?
- What strategies and partnerships exist now that we can build on?
- What needs to be changed – or, stopped?
- What needs to happen that is new?
- What can be done without any additional money?
- How should First 5 – Placer invest funds to achieve results during the period of 2007 through 2010?

All input will be documented as well as the names and addresses of all participants at these events. All who attend the community conversations would be invited to future First 5 planning activities and funding opportunities.

Available community wide data related to the prenatal through 5 population will be reviewed by the Commission and integrated into the community input.

October

The Commission will create, empower and fund a “Plan Writing Team” to update the plan based on feedback received during the community conversation process. The writing team would consist of Commissioners, Community Resource Committee members and First 5 staff. The team meetings will be professionally facilitated. The updated draft plan would be distributed for public comment.

A working meeting will be held with the Commission to review draft plan.

Traditionally the First 5 Partner Network **Outcome Faire** is held in October. Since this event will be held during the planning process we will provide opportunities for the general public to give input to the planning questions as well.

November

As required by law, the Commission will hold a public hearing and adopt its revised strategic plan for the period of 2007 through 2010.

December

An updated 2007-2010 Request for Results application packet and process design will be submitted for Commission approval. Also, the Commission will decide how much money to make available under the Request for Results process.

2007 Activities

January – February

The Request for Results application process will be initiated. After releasing the Request for Results application, a mandatory Applicant Workshop will be held using the Open Space meeting process to:

- Provide information about the First 5 – Placer Commission
- Explain the application process and answer questions from the community
- Provide a definition of outcomes and performance measures
- Surface new ideas
- Help applicants make new connections
- Support the development of results-oriented applications.

In this way, the application process will be flexible enough to capture new ideas and allow for the continuation of strategies that are showing results.

The Request for Results application packet will be released on January 2, 2007.

Applications will be due to the Commission by February 28, 2007.

March – April

An application review process will be created led by the First 5 Community Resource Committee. In this professionally facilitated process sufficient time will be set-aside for the committee to:

- Dialogue with potential partners to fully understand the intent of their applications and the outcomes they are seeking
- Review the data that will be collected to measure achievement of outcomes
- Determine the appropriateness of the funds requested & the cost per service

The Community Resource Committee will use a facilitated consensus decision-making process to develop their funding recommendations to the Commission.

The Commission will make its final funding decisions by **April 30, 2007**

May – June

During this period, First 5 staff will work with new and continuing funded partners to develop the scope of work and budget for their contract. The scope of work will describe in detail the proposed outcomes (Conditions and/or behaviors) that will result from the First 5 investments; the data that will be collected to measure achievement of outcomes (i.e., performance measures); the strategies the partner will use to achieve the outcomes; and a detailed budget outlining how First 5 funds will be spent to achieve outcomes.

July 1, 2007

Funding begins for all contracts under the new strategic plan. Contracts may run for up to 3 years but, each contract will be renewed by the Commission annually based on achievement of outcomes.

